

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2013

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2643

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, HU, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN HUNGARY

REF: DI-3 MESSAGE 5071; USDAO VIENNA 376 AND 377; STATE 205779

1. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS WHEN THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF SOVIET BUILDUP IN HUNGARY MY MILITARY ATTACHES HAVE RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALLS ABOUT THEIR INSTRUC-

TIONS OVER OPEN TELEPHONE FROM DIA. ON THE FIRST OCCASION THE CALL CAME THROUGH AT 3:00 A.M. HERE. THIS TIME (REFTEL) IT CAME THROUGH DURING DAY. OBVIOUSLY, MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IS WORSE, BUT EITHER ONE IS BAD. SUCH TELEPHONE REQUESTS HAVE MAJOR EFFECT OF ALERTING HUNGARIAN INTELLIGENCE TO FACT THAT SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON HAS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR INFORMATION AND EXPOSES MILITARY ATTACHES TO GREATER DANGERS. DOUBLE-TALKING ON TELEPHONE IS OF LITTLE HELP AS THE CALL ITSELF IS THE SIGNAL. I HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN PUT STOP TO THIS PRACTICE, WHICH I FIND PARTICULARLY SURPRISING COMING FROM AN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

2. BEYOND THAT I HOPE PROCEDURE CAN BE INSTITUTED TO REQUIRE PRIOR EXPLORATION OF SOURCE OF RUMORS BEFORE I SEND THE MILITARY ATTACHES OUT--IN ALL BUT MOST URGENT CIRCUMSTANCES. EVERY TIME THEY DO SPECIAL HIGH-VISIBILITY CHECKING THEY EXPOSE THEMSELVES, AND THIS IS AT LEAST FOURTH TIME THIS YEAR THEY HAVE HAD TO CHASE DOWN ERRONEOUS RUMORS THAT
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REVERBERATE AROUND EASTERN EUROPE. IN CASE LIKE

THIS, WHERE SOURCE WAS AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER, WHY COULD NOT
APPROACH HAVE BEEN MADE FIRST TO AUSTRIAN MILITARY TO SEE IF THEY
HAD ANY REAL REASON TO BELIEVE THE STORY? NECESSITY OF
CHASING SO MANY WOLF CRIES DOWN MAY WELL RESULT IN CLASSICAL
PROBLEM OF DULLING OUR SENSES TO MORE REAL INFO SHOULD
THE TIME COME.
PEDERSEN

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